



November 15, 2021

Monday of the Thirty-Third Week of Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners:

I hope this note finds you well!

First off, I share with you a note from Bishop Malesic concerning the sentencing of Robert McWilliams as he writes, “Today, [November 9] with the sentencing of Robert McWilliams, let us once again, as a family of faith, offer prayers for all those impacted by his reprehensible actions and ask our loving Father to heal any and all wounds they have suffered. We also thank those in law enforcement and the judicial system who worked so hard to ensure that justice was served and that McWilliams’ wrongdoing was justly punished. Finally, let us offer our support and thanks to all the good priests of the Diocese of Cleveland who faithfully live out their promises each day in service to God’s people. For its part, the diocese continues to actively pursue the removal of McWilliams from the clerical state.” In this upcoming weekend’s (11/21/21) bulletin, I have included an Impact Statement that I was given the chance to submit to the court, by the prosecutor’s invitation. While these events have shaped our community for the past two years, it is also clear that what I said that first weekend in December 2019 has held true – his have not defined us! We were before, have been over the past two years, and will continue to be more than these actions. I realize, even today, people struggle with aftermath of his actions. We have access to resources that we can connect you with, so do not hesitate to reach out. We want to assist as we can!

Secondly, and especially as we continue to commemorate our 75th Anniversary, we had some conversation at a recent Parish Pastoral Council meeting about doing another Parish Pictorial Directory. We last did one in 2014 and honestly, it did not have a high percentage of participation and since COVID-19, it seems that the number of mailings I get from those companies has trickled to nothing. So, it got me thinking – what could we do? Then I remembered, we can do our own and use a tool already at our disposal – *MyStJoseph*. You may remember me writing about it before. But in case you do not, *MyStJoseph* allows you to update your own parish records, include and change individual or family pictures, and communicate with other parishioners. If you’d like to sign up for this, please launch your web browser and go to my.sjohio.org, click “Need a login?”, and enter the email you received my letter on (because this is the one that we have for you on file); hit Find Me. Once you’re found, an email will be sent to you; if you’re not found, you can email office@sjohio.org and they can help you. Once you receive an email with your information, you’ll have 24 hours to use that link. When in the program and setting up your account, you can choose what information is shared with other members of the parish. Out of respect for your privacy, no information is shared with others unless you choose it to be shared. YOU control whatever information you’d like to share once you sign-up. You can do this on *MyStJoseph* by clicking on home, my account, personal preferences, and following the screen prompts. Once you allow

your information to be shared, you can find other parishioners who have also allowed their contact information to be shared. In order to help you access and set up your access, I have included a “Basics of MyStJoseph” PDF with this month’s email to assist you.

Thirdly, I thank all those who responded to the interest survey about diving deeper into Catholic Social Teaching from our Social Concerns Commission. By now, they have reached out to all who responded and shared with them that all those interested thus far will be gathering – both in-person and over Zoom – on Thursday, December 9 at 7pm. They are seeking consensus on the logistics (how, where and when to meet) and format (e.g., book club, periodic series) that will work best for everyone to achieve our purpose. If you would like more information or would like to join them, please email Patsy Brodie, one of the co-chairs of the commission, at patsygbrodie@gmail.com.

As you are aware, we are in the midst of the *Heart of a Shepherd* Campaign and actually, nearing the end, as we have our Commitment Weekend this upcoming weekend – November 20/21. I hope to be there for it, but it will depend on my stamina. I’m still getting winded standing for “long” periods. As you are aware, this Campaign supports renovation of our Diocesan seminaries, retired and newly-ordained priests, and provides our parish with the opportunity to strengthen our own parish’s Endowment Fund. You can always find out more about our Parish Endowment Fund by visiting www.sjohio.org/endowment. Our community has already pledged over 50% of our nearly \$372,000 goal that is to be raised over three years. 50% remains here for our Parish Endowment Fund, while the other portion will support the Diocesan 3-fold effort. If we exceed our goal, 80% of the excess will be returned to us. An informational video is available at: <https://youtu.be/C0D8vXiJsg>. I thank everyone for their consideration of this campaign and realize that it is above your current support of other causes or the parish and not everyone will choose to support it. Yet for those who wish, I invite you to join me in offering any support that you may be able to provide! I know this will make a difference for our community and the wider Diocesan community. Ironically, I had committed to a fund-raising drive for my high school that ends this year – just in time LOL.

Just a quick reminder, the next event of our 75th Anniversary Celebration is coming up on Sunday, December 12 when our Music Ministry – featuring handbells, soloists, organ, and various vocal choirs – will present an Advent Concert at 3pm in the Church. It will be a great way to spend a few moments in prayerful reflection in the midst of the Advent Season. I hope you’ll make time to be there!

Finally, let’s talk Christmas briefly... if you remember last year, not only were we in the midst of one of the COVID surges, we also had a very snowy Christmas that resulted us in having a total of 454 people in-person for Mass! Hopefully, we’ll see more people this year and are back to our usual Christmas schedule of 4pm, 6pm, and 11pm on Christmas Eve and 9am and 11am on Christmas Day. We will live-stream 4pm Mass. Even though Christmas is Saturday, we will NOT have a 4:30pm Mass on December 25. Our last Mass on Christmas Day will be 11am. Our past experience is that nearly 80% of people attend Mass on Christmas Eve (even last year!), so if you are looking for less crowds, your best bet remains a Christmas Morning Mass. We look forward to seeing you for Christmas!

Thank you for your continued concern about me. I feel stronger than the week before and look forward, hopefully by mid-December, returning to full ministry. On behalf of our Parish Staff, we wish and your family both a Happy Thanksgiving and a great start to Advent!

St. Joseph, pray for us!
~Fr. Joe